



CITY OF SUFFOLK

120 FOREST GLEN DRIVE, SUFFOLK, VIRGINIA 23434
DEPARTMENT OF FLEET MANAGEMENT
Communication Division
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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW Room TW-A325

Re: WT Docket 09-217 NPSTC Petition for Rulemaking

To: The Commission

The City of Suffolk is the largest city in Virginia with over 430 square miles covering rural, suburban, and urban areas. Suffolk is located in the Hampton Roads metropolitan area with a population of almost 82,000 residents

Suffolk understands the importance of communications and alerting of public safety first responders. The city was hit by an F3 tornado which produced a large swath of extensive damage through the city and nearby communities during the late afternoon of Monday 28 April 2008. With property damages in excess of \$20 million and over 200 injured our response to this disaster stretched the City's communications abilities. It is our belief had we in place a two-way alerting system similar to what the City of Richmond has, our response to this or future disasters would be enhanced.

The City has evaluated technologies with the intent to improve our first responder and fire station alerting capabilities. So far, a private two-way paging system appears to be a value-leader. We have not yet found a technology that could provide the capabilities needed at a cost lower than two-way paging.

The City of Suffolk would consider this technology in future communications projects if spectrum policy afforded public safety agencies direct access to the appropriate spectrum. We encourage the commission to support NPSTC in their request to audit the Part-24 band, reclaim any unused spectrum, and allow access for public safety.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot at the end.

Ty Williams
City of Suffolk Virginia
Communications Division